

ENERGY TIDBITS

June 2006

Community Energy Project Grants will be available to non-profit and public organizations for the following categories: 1) Solar and/or wind energy education, 2) Bioenergy/biofuels/bioproductions education, 3) Green commuting projects, 4) Green building projects, and 5) Statewide energy conferences. Each project can be up to \$6,000 and will be for the period Jan 1-Dec 31, 2007. It is expected that 20 projects will be funded. The deadline for proposals is September 1, 2006. To obtain a Request for Proposal, contact jhsarve@michigan.gov.

Michigan Energy Fair will be held on June 16-18 at the Manistee County Fairgrounds in Onkama. Learn about renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable living in a fun festival atmosphere. Exhibitors and vendors will be on hand to display energy technologies. Educational workshops will be held on a wide variety of topics including green building, solar architecture, small wind systems, energy efficiency upgrades, alternative fuel vehicles, and much more. Live music and local foods will also be featured. www.glrea.org

Ann Arbor City Council has passed a resolution directing staff to prepare and implement a plan to transition 30% of the municipal operation's energy to renewable sources by 2010. The City also established goals of transitioning 20% of the overall community's energy use to renewable sources by 2015 and reducing community greenhouse gas emissions levels 20% from 2000 levels by 2015. In the coming months, city staff will evaluate the purchase of long-term, fixed-rate electricity from local and Michigan wind generators. In Oct. 2006, city staff will provide recommendations on green electricity purchases. Dave Konkle, city energy coordinator, will present "Report from the Ann Arbor Energy Office – Moving a City to Renewable Energy" at the Michigan Energy Fair on Saturday, June 17.

Reduce Natural Gas Use in Your Industrial Steam Systems: Ten Timely Tips brochure from DOE offers simple, low cost steps to help companies reduce their natural gas bills.

<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy06osti/39392.pdf>

New Energy Education Workshop will be held on June 22-23 at Lansing Community College, West Campus. The workshop will combine mini-seminars on advanced energy topics and hands-on, interactive activities that can be implemented in the classroom. It is designed for teachers at all levels, from kindergarten through college. Lansing Community College's faculty will provide tours of LCC's fuel cell lab and the environmentally friendly West Campus, which is heated and cooled by a geothermal system. Contact: www.H2conference.com or call (517) 483-1924.

System Integrator Certification Course will be held on June 21-23 at the GLREA Energy Center in Dimondale. www.glrea.org/events/main.html.

First Poll to gauge the attitudes of Michigan's hunters and anglers on global warming and energy policy found that 89% of Michigan sportsmen agree with President Bush's assertion that the nation is addicted to oil. Of those, 75% say the U.S. is not doing enough to break that addiction. The National Wildlife Federation commissioned the survey. Among the poll's findings: 65% agree that Congress should pass legislation that sets a clear national goal for reducing global warming pollution with mandatory timelines. 80% support a state law requiring power companies in Michigan to gradually increase the amount of electricity they generate from renewable sources. 80% say the best way to address American's energy future is conserve more, and develop fuel efficient vehicles and renewable forms of energy like wind, solar and ethanol. A bare 12% think drilling for more oil and gas in the U.S. is the best way to address America's energy needs. On the state level, not only do 80% of

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sportsmen support state measures that would increase reliance on renewable energy, but 79% also support a Michigan energy plan which requires investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy first to meet energy needs, before building any new coal-fired power plants. The full poll can be found at www.targetglobalwarming.org/michigan.

Michigan Energy Appraisal is prepared every six months. It is available on the MPSC Web site at <http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/reports/energy>. High gasoline prices in Michigan are expected to continue to depress demand again this year. For 2006, total gasoline consumption is projected to fall 2.1% from last year's levels. This is on top of the 2.2% decline seen in 2005. These are the largest annual declines in gasoline usage seen in Michigan in over 20 years. For more information on Michigan gasoline prices see <http://www.michigan.gov/gasprices>.

Efficiency and Innovation in U.S. Manufacturing Energy Use report features 17 case studies whose energy efficiency upgrades are returning 30% on investment annually. http://www.climatebiz.com/sections/toolsresources_detail.cfm?LinkAdvID=64517

Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory has received an award from DOE for converting the Huron Explorer and two other vessels in its fleet to biofuels. The Huron Explorer operates on B-100 (100% soybean oil) for propulsion, as well as a canola oil blend for motor oil and rapeseed hydraulic oil for its deck crane, winches, and marine transmission gear. <http://www.thealpenanews.com/stories/articles.asp?articleID=1739>

Hotels & Casinos are a promising market for Combined Heat & Power according to a market study recently completed by the CHP Partnership. While there are nearly 48,000 hotels in the U.S., about 10,000 of them have the energy characteristics suitable for current CHP technology. http://www.epa.gov/chp/project_resources/hotels.htm

DaimlerChrysler has introduced the first fuel cell-powered police vehicle. The Wayne State University Police Department will operate the Mercedes F-Cell. The demanding operation of a police car will produce valuable data to help develop fuel cell technology. The vehicle will be refueled at NextEnergy's new hydrogen fueling station. The car will serve as a learning laboratory for students in WSU College of Engineering Alternative Energy Technology. DaimlerChrysler has more than 100 fuel cell vehicles on the road around the world.



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